

Notes of a
Naturalist
By Don Admiral

Aldine's Library

The Desert Sun

Of Palm Springs, California

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Palm Springs, California, Friday, July 17, 1936

No. 50

Some years ago I read an account by J. Smeaton Chase, in his book "Yosemite Trails," of his camping over night on the top of El Capitan. Since then I have always wanted to stand on the summit of this sheer rock nob. Now it is impossible to climb the face of El Capitan so a round-about trail in the back country is taken to the summit. For some reason few persons make the trip. The Park officials say little because the trail is not good and there is a probability of someone becoming lost, which means a great deal of trouble and use of valuable time that the rangers could use to advantage in other duties.

Bud Jackson, a friend of his, Ben Morton, and I made the trip. The first part of the journey was by car over the control section of the Oak Flat road. This was particularly interesting for me as it was the first time I did not have to drive over this road and I had an opportunity to look over the country instead of watching the road. The Big Oak Flat road is the old stage road, built many years ago, and is still the most spectacular entry into the Yosemite Valley; the tunnel on the Wawona road is a great engineering feat, but the control section of the Big Oak Flat road remains the one way to introduce a visitor to a thrilling ride and a grand view of the Valley.

El Capitan trail leaves the Big Oak Flat road less than one-half mile beyond the Gentry checking station. Here and there for a distance of about one-half mile the trail follows an old logging road that was used many years ago in hauling logs to a mill located near the place where the El Capitan trail begins. After about one-half mile the old logging road is left behind and the trail takes off up the steep walled side. This is a very old trail built in the days before dude travel, so switchbacks were merely skipped and the trail goes places by a most direct route. Here and there is an old blaze and here and there a rock duck evidently placed there rather recently. Occasionally an old blaze mark has been chopped out and stands out distinctly. On the whole it is an easy trail to follow if one is accustomed to getting about in the woods but otherwise it is better to wait until someone can go who is familiar with woods and mountain traveling.

The trail starts at an elevation of about 5,800 feet and rises steadily to more than 7,000 feet, then gently up and down across the country toward Half Dome, 5.5 miles from the Big Oak Flat road. For some distance the travel is through the heavy red-fir forests, a beautiful trip during the summer and even more interesting when there is deep snow on the ground. Again, it is not advisable to strike out across mountain country in summer and less so in winter when the entire appearance of the country is changed, unless you know your way about or are with someone who does. We crossed Ribbon Creek, the creek that forms Ribbon Falls by the side of El Capitan and the first one you see on the north side of the Valley proper. The streams are dwindling rapidly and we were able to walk across Ribbon Creek without getting our feet wet.

For some time a thunderstorm had been threatening and by the time we had made our way out to a view of the Bridalveil Falls section of the Valley, affairs were looking serious. Over Horse Ridge way there were heavy dark clouds, sheets of lightning and the heavy roll of thunder. It appeared that Horse Ridge was getting a good drenching and there was a good chance of the storm making its way across the Valley which meant that we would be on El Capitan just in time to catch the full force of the storm. There being some doubt as to the storm reaching the Valley we went on and came out on El Capitan and the highest point just as a heavy wind struck, the forerunner of the storm to be. We hunted a double Jeffrey pine, got out a small pup tent, sat down on the lee side of the tree, spread the tent over us just as the rain started. It did not fall in the conventional way, the wind drove it violently and when the drops hit our "waterproof" canvas they mere-

PALM SPRINGS-INDIO ROAD TO BE COMPLETED SOON

By the end of July a large portion of the Palm Springs-Indio highway will have been converted from a twisting, rough road into a modern highway.

According to a representative of Sharp & Fellows, who have the contract for the realigned highway, the new thoroughfare will be opened along its entire length to general travel by August 1. The section westward from Indian Wells is entirely completed and has been traveled for some time. Other sections of the road are open to travel at intervals, when equipment is not working.

A subsurface of oil-mix was being spread from the junction of the re-alignement with Avenue 46 to the junction of Avenue 46 with Highway 99, a distance of about two miles. A spread of dry gravel and later a surfacing of desert-mix will complete this section some time next week.

The new improvement will be particularly appreciated by residents and tourists of Palm Springs.

The old road consisted of a narrow oil surfaced pavement, constructed a number of years ago by Riverside county, which had as its bad features sharp radius curves, poor sight distances, and inadequate drainage protection.

Work was started on the new highway in February of this year, with E. L. Evans as resident engineer. W. T. Rhodes has been resident engineer for the past month, following Evans' return to Sacramento.

It is estimated that the new structure will cost approximately \$153,000, consisting, in general, of constructing a graded roadbed 30 feet wide, treating the subgrade over a width of 22 feet with liquid asphalt by the roadmix method, and the surfacing of the central 20 feet with oil treated material, also by the roadmix

(Continued On Second Page)

CRIME RECORD AT LOW EBB HERE

Considering the large number of transients and summer residents here, it is remarkably quiet at the police station. There have been no robberies, sneak thievery, or other evidences of crime in the town. This is probably due to the constant vigilance of the police department in patrolling the business and residential sections day and night. Palm Springs' summer residents are orderly and law-abiding. They are a fine type of hard working people, who believe in law and order, and they are giving excellent cooperation to the police department.

There are still many callers at the police department who are looking for various construction jobs. Contractors have failed to register their jobs at the police station, so that delivery men can be directed when they call for information.

MISS FRANCILLA ABBOT WINS HIGHEST HONORS AT IDYLLWILD GYMKHANA

The gymkhana, recently held at Idyllwild attracted the largest crowd ever to attend a similar event at the mountain resort.

Francilla Abbot, of Banning, formerly of Palm Springs, won the grand prize. She had the largest total of points won during the show.

Miss Abbot was first in the following:

Hack class (three-gaited), riding "Novia."

Jumping, riding "Novia."

Balloon and cigarette race, riding "Taffy."

Musical chairs, riding "Taffy."

Potato race, riding "Taffy."

Miss Abbot also won second in the package race, third in the stake race and fourth in the trail horse class.

The next highest number of points gained during the day was that of Chas. Childs of Hemet.

Pat Percival of Hemet, Paul Brugerman of Palm Springs, C. C. Hooper of Beverly Hills, and Miss Beckly of Los Angeles, were judges and Mr. Disney of Hemet acted as announcer.

(Continued On Last Page)

New Construction Started Since July 1 Totals \$89,000.00

New construction totaling more than \$89,000 has been started in Palm Springs since July 1st, and it is estimated that between \$100,000 and \$150,000 more will be started during the last half of the month.

As promised in a recent issue of The Desert Sun, a continuous survey of Palm Springs, made by Joe Schobe of the Mason Case Company, will be published semi-monthly in this newspaper. The first report, published shortly after July 1, showed that \$1,135,200 in construction was under way at that time, \$285,600 being represented in 26 homes, \$245,100 in 14 apartment courts having 82 units, \$18,500 in four business buildings, \$68,000 in addition to three hotels, \$18,000 in additions to three homes, \$500,000 in the Plaza project.

The survey completed July 15th by Mr. Schobe includes only jobs started since July 1st, and no jobs valued at less than \$2,000.

Here are the figures:

Four new homes	\$55,000
Two apartments and courts, 18 units	34,000
Total since July 1	\$89,000

The average cost of new homes is even higher than was indicated in the last report, for the four new homes average \$13,750 each. The average for the July 1st report was \$11,000 each for 26 homes under construction at that time.

Mr. Schobe's next report will appear in the July 31st issue of The Desert Sun. It is anticipated that the most building activity will occur during September and October.

PALM SPRINGS ASKS COUNTY BOARD FOR ZONING ORDINANCE

The Riverside county board of supervisors on Monday took what may be the first steps toward fulfilling the principal desire of property owners in Palm Springs, the zoning of the desert resort village and surrounding territory to curb objectionable construction.

Members of the county board set a conference for next Monday with State Planning Commission officials to hear how county-wide zoning is working in other California counties, particularly Orange county.

A delegation headed by Warren Pinney and Tom Lipps, appeared before the supervisors urging appropriation of funds to finance the drafting of a master plan that would be the basis for zoning restriction for Palm Springs.

The village is worried by unrestricted building because it is unincorporated and has no authority to limit construction, Pinney and Lipps told the supervisors.

The Riverside County Planning Commission informed the supervisors through County Recorder Jack Ross, its secretary, that it stands ready to begin preparing a master plan the moment funds are made available.

County Surveyor A. C. Fulmor, a member of the county planning commission, read the report prepared by his committee, which stated that the planning commission is ready to proceed with the zoning of the county of Riverside whenever the board of supervisors appropriates \$4,000 for that purpose. The report stated that \$1200 would be needed to employ a zoning expert, \$2400 for a draftsman and \$400 for incidental expenses.

A letter from District Attorney Earl Redwine stated that the law makes it mandatory for the board of supervisors to enact a county zoning ordinance and to provide a master plan for the entire county.

GOOD GOVERNMENT GROUP SUPPORTS JOHN PHILLIPS

The executive committee of the Good Government Committee, supporting John Phillips for state senator, met at Hotel Banning Thursday evening and selected chairmen for the various communities in the county. Carl Barkow was appointed chairman for Banning.

The committee was formed some time ago in Riverside, when a group of citizens from all parts of the county, who had prevailed upon John Phillips to file for the office of state senator, met at Holstrom's Cafe. An executive committee was appointed, and

PHILLIPS CALLS SPECIAL MEETING PEACH EMERGENCY

Assemblyman John Phillips has just called a special meeting of the Interim Committee on Agriculture, for Wednesday of next week, in Los Angeles, to discuss the emergency situation which confronts the peach growers of Riverside, and adjoining counties.

The peach trees have been affected with a virus disease, known as "peach mosaic" for which there is apparently no known cure. The virulence of the disease makes it necessary to remove the trees at once, to prevent the spread of the disease.

Riverside county has been infested to about 10% of the trees. The State Department of Agriculture will begin removing the trees in the near future, for the protection of the remaining 90% and for the protection of orchards in other parts of the state, which have not yet been touched.

The question which Phillips has been asked to place before his committee is whether or not any move should be made to secure indemnity for the growers, as in the case of a similar emergency with cattle some years back, or with the T.B. eradication program.

In addition to this serious situation, the committee has been asked by the apricot growers of the north to help them in a marketing problem, and the milk investigation in the Oakland shed is of interest, the committee there, formed of representatives of the groups involved, being known as the "Phillips Committee."

Phillips returned Saturday from a hurried trip to Berkeley for an urgent meeting of the Farm Debt Adjustment Commission, and leaves again, following the Los Angeles meeting, for an agricultural conference in Fresno.

this committee has held several meetings to formulate plans to advance Mr. Phillips' candidacy.

Officers of the executive committee are: Irwin Farrar, seed grower of Hemet, chairman; W. F. Roberge of Banning, secretary-treasurer;

AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATE REPORTED SALES, WORTHLESS LANDS, CHOCOLATE MOUNTAINS

George Bolton Lownes, deputy of the California state real estate department, is in Imperial valley in connection with that organization's campaign to stop the fraudulent sales of lands in the Chocolate mountains of eastern Imperial county.

Lownes pledged the full cooperation of the state real estate commission office in the campaign to stop sales of these valueless lands which are sold under misrepresentation by unscrupulous promoters.

F. H. A. Loans, Dill Lumber Co. of

LEGION POSTS MEET AT TAUQUIT LODGE

American Legion Posts of Riverside county held a convention at Tauquit Lodge, San Jacinto mountains, Saturday evening.

Clayton C. Troxel, past commander of the Riverside post, was elected president of the county organization for the coming year. A. C. Spencer, junior vice-commander of Riverside post, was appointed adjutant.

At the business session of the meeting, which was followed by a banquet and dance, decision was made to dispense with the regular August meeting of the council on account of the Legion convention to be held in Hollywood August 10 to 12.

An Orange county delegation headed by Lew Mitchell and "Doc" Sheean invited the Legionnaires to attend a pre-convention caucus at Huntington Beach next Saturday and Sunday, July 18 and 19.

Other officers of the county council named at the gathering were Roy Haglund, past commander of the Riverside post, who will serve as finance officer. J. E. Carlson of Riverside was appointed county rehabilitation chairman. Coroner Ben F. White, representing the Blythe post, was appointed time and place chairman. Other appointments were Hugh Rawlings, Riverside, membership chairman; Walter Dodge, Indio, get-out-the-vote chairman; Mr. McBurney, Hemet, county council attendance chairman.

Frank Bishop of Corona, was unanimously endorsed by the group for the position of first vice-commander of the twenty-first district. Day Jewell, Corona, retiring county commander, was elected trustee.

Legionnaires representing Banning post at the convention included Captain McFall, Otto Meeks, Harry Trotter, R. H. Watson, Bill Thompson, and Owen Fenton.

We might mention the weather this week, but everybody knows all about it; so what's the use?

A Region Full of Tragedy

(By T. H. Lamb)

From the 98th meridian west to the Rocky mountains there is a stretch of country whose history is filled with more tragedy . . . than perhaps any other equal expanse of territory within the confines of the Western Hemisphere.

The great plains can be characterized as a region of periodical famine . . . Year after year the water supply may be ample, the forage plants cover the ground with rank growth, the herds multiply, the settlers extend their fields, when, almost imperceptibly, the climate becomes less humid, the rain clouds forming day after day disappear upon the horizon, and weeks lengthen into months without a drop of moisture.

The grasses wither, the herds wander wearily over the plains in search of water holes, the crops wither and languish, yielding not even the seed for another year. . . . Another and perhaps another season of drought occurs, the settlers depart with such of their household furniture as can be drawn away by the enfeebled draft animals, the herds disappear, and this beautiful land, once so fruitful, is now dry and brown and given over to the prairie wolf.

"There comes a season of ample rains. The prairie grasses, dormant through several seasons, spring to life, and with these the hopes of the new pioneers. Then recurs the flood of immigration, to be continued until the next long drought."

Forty years ago Frederick H. Newell, chief hydrographer of the United States Geographical Survey, later director of reclamation, gave the foregoing description of droughts in the very district now burning crops and hopes of American farmers. This quotation from Newell appears in the Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture for the year 1896.

In the 21st annual report of the United States Geographical Survey, 1899-1900, of the covered wagons which one writer says "swept over the land like a plague of locusts," the government publication asserts:

"It was an experiment on a vast scale, conducted systematically and with great energy, though in ignorance or disregard of fairly abundant data

IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING AT HIGH SCHOOL, JULY 27

Taxpayers and other high school patrons should bear in mind the public meeting which has been called for July 27 to consider problems affecting the high school.

The trustees have collected a large amount of information and will be able to give an account of the condition of the present building and the advisability of voting bonds for a new or remodeled structure.

There should be a full turn-out at this important public meeting which will be held in the high school auditorium.

GIRL DRINKS LYSOL; MOTIVE UNREVEALED

Miss Virginia Artelle, beautiful auburn haired girl, 21 years of age, is in a serious condition at the county hospital, where she was taken by friends, after having allegedly drunk lysol in her apartment at Murray's Court, Tuesday evening.

She was found by friends and rushed to the office of Dr. Jack C. Hill, where first aid treatment was given, and she was then taken to the county hospital in Arlington.

Sheriff's officers questioned the young woman at the hospital, but were reported to have been unable to learn the motive for her asserted suicide attempt.

It is believed she has a chance to recover.

Apparently a victim of Thursday's intense heat, H. W. Wilson, 41, who had quit his work upon a building there early that afternoon after complaining that he felt faint, was discovered dead in his room in a local hotel at 9:15 o'clock that night.

The new Dionne "little brother" is now more than a week old. He is all dressed up in clothes imported from Paris. He is too young to know much about styles.

indicating desert conditions, which up to that time the weather bureau had collected. Though persisted in for several years . . . it nevertheless ended in total failure. Full measure of the harm resulting should take account also of the immigration into other regions of a class of people broken in spirit as well as in fortune."

The first swarm of farmers into an unfortunate agricultural region dates back more than 50 years. They argued then, as they argue now, that the false pledge of wet years indicates the climate will become "more seasonable." But the record of 40 years ago proves only too well that the man forgets, builds on hope whether well founded or not, and cl

The Desert Sun

of Palm Springs, California

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INCREASE SHOWN IN VALUATIONS FOR YEAR FOR RIVERSIDE COUNTY

If the state board of equalization makes no reduction on its tentative valuations on public utility properties in Riverside county, the county board of supervisors and other tax-fixing bodies will have a grand total of \$80,299,070 in assessed value, an increase of \$223,665 over last year, on which to levy 1936-37 taxes.

This was disclosed Monday as County Assessor George V. Claytor reported to the board of supervisors the totals on property assessments in the county. His office has just completed its annual re-assessing period.

An increase of \$316,680 in public utilities' property, tentatively fixed by the state board of equalization and subject to alterations during the present equalization hearings, will prevent a decrease in the county's grand total appraisal. The tentative total is \$10,256,670.

Assessments on the common and personal property rolls, which suffered a loss of \$1,478,137 when the state took over automobiles for taxation, showed a county-wide decrease of \$93,015 when the heavy gains in building failed to offset the reduction. This loss brought down the net gain in utilities to \$223,665.

There was a legitimate gain in valuations throughout the county during the past year but the increase was wiped out by the loss in automobile valuations, half of which had previously been attached to real estate and therefore computed in the grand total valuation, the assessor said.

Riverside city had a gain of approximately \$750,000 in assessed value on new building but through the loss of automobiles and wind damage to trees showed a net loss of \$269,355 in common property values, these being exclusive of operative roll—public utility properties—valuations.

Palm Springs showed the greatest gain on the regular roll for districts outside incorporated cities. In the resort village the new construction and increased land values boosted the Desert school district's valuation from \$3,233,820 last year to \$3,882,500 this year, a gain of \$648,680.

Banning showed the heaviest gain of the incorporated cities, its valuation jumping from \$1,481,335 last year to \$1,557,560 this year, chiefly through increased land values and construction made necessary by Metropolitan Water aqueduct activity.

The 10 incorporated cities showed a combined drop of \$388,585 due to the heavy concentrated loss of automobile value in the cities. The total appraisal of the 10 cities is \$32,213,010 as against \$33,601,595 in 1935.

The rural districts, which were not so hard hit by the removal of automobiles from assessment rolls offset this loss to the extent of \$295,570, the incorporated districts, which include Palm Springs, with a total value of \$36,829,330 this year and \$36,533,820 in 1935.

Mr. Claytor disclosed that one of the biggest factors in holding down the assessed valuations of the county principally in the rural areas, was the removal from the rolls of \$539,910 worth of property deeded to the state in the last year. At the beginning of the fiscal year \$608,915 of delinquent tax property stood on the county books and only \$69,005 of this was redeemed.

Common property totals in the 10 incorporated cities for this year and last, exclusive of veterans and church exemptions and not including public utility valuations, were announced by the assessor as follows:

Banning, 1935, \$1,481,335; 1936, \$1,537,560.

Beaumont, 1935, \$620,105; 1936, \$596,680.

Blythe, 1935, \$346,075; 1936, \$353,210.

Corona, 1935, \$5,434,230; 1936, \$5,379,540.

Elsinore, 1935, \$1,114,645; 1936, \$1,099,580.

Hemet, 1935, \$1,382,695; 1936, \$1,374,510.

Indio, 1935, \$693,520; 1936, \$714,160.

Perris, 1935, \$235,485; 1936, \$225,210.

Riverside, 1935, \$21,818,905; 1936, \$21,549,650.

San Jacinto, 1935, \$474,600; 1936, \$472,810.

PALM SPRINGS-INDIO ROAD TO BE COMPLETED SOON

(Continued From First Page)
method. A timber bridge has been constructed together with other adequate drainage structures to care for the occasional extreme storms that occur in this vicinity.

Many obstacles to the construction of a high type highway were encountered through this location. The new alignment traverses a terrain which varies from a nearly ideal construction to a soft "floury" sand, similar to that found in the Sand Hills of lower Imperial Valley.

The principal construction obstacles were the soft sandy sections over which a stable sub-grade must be built to support the surfacing properly. This sand-silt is so soft that the contractor's equipment had difficulty in operating in these sections.

The soil conditions are such that nearly 30 per cent of the total cost of the work is being expended in providing for the proper stabilization and blanketing of this unsuitable material. Even after this means is taken to correct the sandy condition, it will be necessary that matter brought in for the embankment be oil treated before the surfacing can be placed.

In proper sequence, the construction involves the following steps: First—the embankments are constructed to approximate grade with the local material, which, in most cases, consists of the sand mentioned above. Second—over this embankment is spread a blanket of imported material of a coarser composition. Liquid asphalt is then applied and mixed with this imported material to form a subgrade and mixing table for the road mix surfacing. Third—selected material of a still higher type than the imported borrow is then spread on the oiled subgrade, liquid asphalt being applied to this; it is then roadmixed, shaped and compacted to form an excellent low cost pavement.

The minimum radius curve on the new highway will be 1500 feet and the minimum sight distance, 1000 feet, which is a great improvement over the old road.

The present work is furnishing employment for an average force of approximately 75 men, most of whom

are employed from the immediate vicinity of the work.

The work is under the direct supervision of E. E. Wallace, district engineer of District XI, at San Diego, and E. E. Sorenson, district construction engineer.

DEER SEASON WILL OPEN AUGUST 16TH

Deer season will be the same as last year in Riverside and adjoining counties. The dates when bucks may be bagged in this vicinity are August 16 to September 15.

The limit of two bucks to one hunter a season will again be in force this coming season. Deer tags, licenses and information concerning the season are available at various places.

The San Jacinto mountains yield several hundred bucks every season. It is one of the best deer-hunting grounds.

F. H. A. Loans. Dill Lumber Co. tf



John Phillips

FOR
State Senator

Primary Election August 25th

[Not "obligated" to any group, financial institution, or corporation]

Endorsed and Supported by the

Good Government Committee

IRWIN E. FARRAR, Chairman

W. F. ROBERGE, Secretary

Executive Committee

from "clients." The Committee wants unpledged representatives in the State Legislature. It wants able, experienced, influential service. For these reasons it supports JOHN PHILLIPS for the STATE SENATE in the August Primaries.

• The Riverside County Good Government Committee is not interested in personalities. It is vitally interested in principles of good government, and in securing independent representation, rather than representation on the basis of "legal fees"

sign countries, chiefly British Columbia, so that the total consumption of coal in Alaska in 1935 amounted to about 161,700 tons.

The motor car did its usual murderous act on California highways last Sunday.

SERIES 1

WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE TO NOMINATE HARRY R. SHEPPARD (FOR CONGRESS)

on the Democratic Ticket, at the Primary Election, August 25, 1936

"A careful reading of my platform will disclose the fact that the majority of my pledges are identical in quality with those stated by President Roosevelt. On these measures and all others to be advanced by our President which I feel will be of greater service to the nation I am prepared to cooperate 100%."



Eat — and — Big Drink Limit

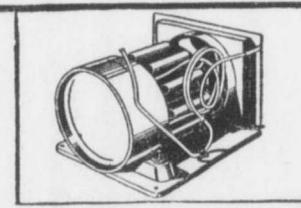
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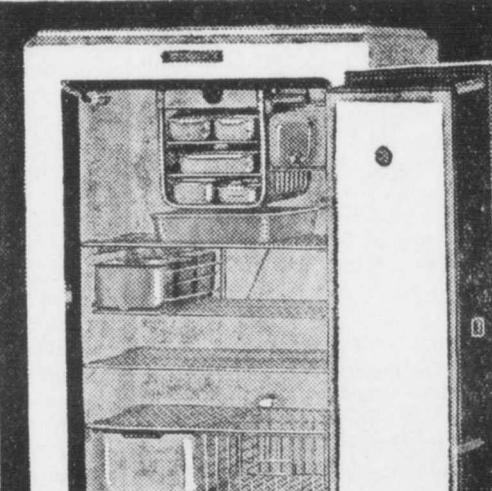


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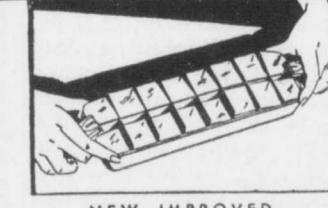


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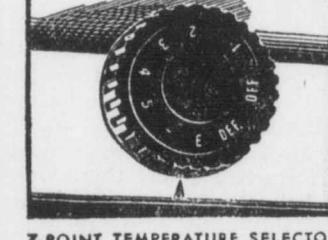
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IT IS TRUE . . .

- There are only a few inexpensive lots left in Palm Springs.
- We offer for sale:

 - Three lots at \$400 each.
 - Two lots for \$425 each.
 - Good corner lot for \$500.
 - A rare chance to obtain the most elaborate estate in Palm Springs — at a price that will interest any one who wants a home of this type. Excellent reason for selling.

**DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS
TO VIE FOR HONORS**

With the honor of representing the state in the all-American championships at the national Legion convention in Cleveland at stake, drum and bugle corps from almost every county will compete in spectacular contests during the California State American Legion convention at Hollywood early next month.

The gigantic musical conclave will be staged in the Gilmore Stadium, seating 30,000 persons, on August 10, with the public admitted to the ceremony, which promises to be one of the largest and most colorful contests of the kind ever staged anywhere.

In addition to deciding the drum and bugle corps championship in the finals at 7:30 o'clock that night, band, drumming, bugling and rifle drill team champions for the state of California will be named. In the contests, drum and bugle corps from the Southern California section which have announced their intention of furnishing competition for the rest of the state include those of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Riverside, San Gabriel, Santa Ana, Santa Monica, the 91st Division and Harmony Post, all members of the California Corps and Band Association.

The American Legion Auxiliary will stage their drill team contests at a Hollywood high school and their musical competition at the El Capitan theatre during the day. Other spectacular competition during the convention includes rifle and pistol matches for the Legionnaire and civilian state championships and a Legion golf tournament.

Starting with a spectacular opening memorial ceremony in the famed Hollywood Bowl, the night of August 9, one of the most pretentious programs ever scheduled for a convention of any kind has been prepared, including sports activities, midnight theatre parties, Griffith Park Observatory lectures, boxing and wrestling events and innumerable other festivities of a patriotic and social nature. History

Aqueduct News

How a new water supply is being brought to Southern California from the Colorado river is being demonstrated for motorists on Foothill Boulevard, alongside which construction crews are building a section of the world's largest precast concrete pipe line, a unit of the distribution system of the Metropolitan Water District aqueduct.

A deep trench has been excavated parallel to the highway and into it men and equipment are lowering the huge pipe sections, each weighing more than 40 tons and having a diameter of nine feet eight inches. The work is going forward at a point just west of San Dimas.

Scores of motorists are reported to be stopping daily to watch the progress of the job. Work on this section of the aqueduct project is being carried forward from four o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock in the evening.

Similar construction activity is now going forward at three other points on the distribution system of the aqueduct, though none in such close proximity to the highway as the San Dimas unit.

Progress figures compiled in the office of General Manager F. E. Weymouth of the district reveal that approximately four miles of the pipe line have been completed to date, of a total of 42 miles under contract. The total length of the entire aqueduct system is approximately 390 miles.

Contractor William Marte has started construction of a guest house for Charles R. Crane, a winter resident here, and formerly United States Ambassador to China.

F. H. A. Loans. Dill Lumber Co. tf

In California, from February 2, 1932, to December 31, 1935, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation disbursed a total of \$405,704,651.15, it was announced by Donald Renshaw, state director for the National Emergency Council. This amount does not include loans to Federal agencies. It was also revealed that for the same period, \$225,209,841.83 of the above amount had been repaid.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Banning Union High School will receive sealed bids for the flooring of certain rooms and hallways in the high school building. Detailed specifications covering material and areas may be obtained at the high school office. Bids should be mailed to the Clerk of the Board of Trustees of the Banning Union High School, Banning, California. Bids will be opened at a meeting of the Board of Trustees called for 7 P. M., July 29, 1936, at the high school office. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

(Signed) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

ROBINA HEMMERLING, Clerk.

h28-29-s49-50

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Economic Highlights

It is possible that the decisive factor in the general election of 1936 will be a man who was unknown to millions of Americans up to a month or two ago, and who was known to millions of others only because his name appeared on a Congressional bill which was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States.

That man is Congressman William Lemke of North Dakota, Presidential nominee of the newly-formed Union Party. Principal plank in his platform is currency inflation, and he has the support of Father Coughlin of Share-the-Wealth fame. Furthermore, it is widely believed that before November comes 'round, he will have entered into an agreement with Dr. Townsend, and will have the official support of the old-age pension movement.

No one—aside from a few zealots—believes that Lemke can be elected. Few believe that he can attain a majority in even one state. But he can be of tremendous importance in determining the Roosevelt-Landon race. Before going farther into that, it is well to present a brief history of the third party movement in American politics.

There are always third parties, of course, and fourth and fifth parties as well. Best examples are the Socialist and Communist parties, which put a ticket into the field each year. But these parties do not affect either of the major parties—they have a certain established following, and their total vote varies but little from election to election. They do not attract voters in any number from the Democratic or Republican parties.

The important third parties are those which are brought into being by some problem or condition of the moment and which, though they may live only for one election, present an appeal to a certain proportion of the voters of the major parties. It is in this classification that Lemke's new party belongs.

Several times in the history of the Republic, such a third party has determined the election. Most notable example of that was the election of 1860 when Lincoln and Douglas contended for the Presidency. Two other parties were also in the field. Lincoln received only 40 per cent of the vote, yet was elected. Had all of Lincoln's opposition gone to Douglas, the latter would have won easily.

Another notable example occurred in 1884, when Blaine was the Republican nominee, running against Demo-

crat Cleveland. Decisive state was New York. Cleveland carried it by the astonishingly small majority of 1100 votes, and so was elected to the highest office in the land. The Prohibition candidate in New York received the record total of 25,000 votes that year. Had ten per cent of those gone to Blaine, he would have won. Most successful third party was that led by Theodore Roosevelt in 1912, which ran second to the Democratic party headed by Wilson. In that year, the Republican candidate, Taft, took the worst lacing ever received by a major party candidate.

Most recent example of an important third party was the Progressive Party, which had the elder Senator LaFollette for its candidate. This party carried but one state, Wisconsin, but received a good-sized vote in almost every state. It was not a decisive factor in the election, however, for the reason that Coolidge went into the Presidency by a tremendous electoral majority; his opponent, John W. Davis, carrying only the traditionally Democratic Solid South.

To return to the present, Candidate Lemke has a strong following in a number of what may be extremely important states—states which are more or less in the "doubtful" class, and which might be able to swing the battle in favor of either Roosevelt or Landon. These are the Northwest states—the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming, and, to drop south a bit, Ohio, etc. Under the American elective system, the candidate who attains a majority in a state receives all its electoral vote, even though his majority consists of but one vote. Thus, in a close state, a few thousand votes cast for Lemke could very easily take that state away from one major candidate, swing it to the other.

Which candidate has the most to fear from Lemke's candidacy? Best observers say that at least 90 per cent of the Lemke vote will be taken from Roosevelt, practically none from Landon. Even as the New Deal is more radical than the Republican party, so is the Union Party more radical than the New Deal. It will draw its strength from those who feel the President has not gone far enough Left.

Practically every summer a seasonal recession occurs in business. This year is an exception—few industries have shown a drop from spring levels, many have made substantial progress in the face of seasonal influences. Motors are still making records.

Worst factor in the business picture is the labor situation. The steel industry is threatened with a strike—other, lesser strikes are possible. Widespread labor disturbances could wreak havoc with the currently favorable business indicators.

STOLEN CAR IS BURNED RECOVERED IN MOUNTAINS

A beautiful new deluxe Pontiac sedan, owned by Douglas Venable, was stolen in Banning Friday night and was found Monday evening on the Palms to Pines highway, 20 miles from Indio, where it had been run off the road and completely destroyed by fire. The car had been purchased from L. J. Pride and was insured by Robert N. Berlin. On Monday afternoon the Berlin agency received word that a burned Pontiac car had been found on the Palms to Pines highway. Harold Barkow, of the Berlin office, was sent to the scene of the wreck, accompanied by J. N. Lewis, mechanic for Mr. Pride. They found the wreck and identified it as the stolen car. There were indications that the car had been run into the ditch deliberately and had evidently been stripped before it was burned. The heat had been so intense that even the glass was melted.

Astonishing revelations of a \$125,000,000 insurance racket, where arms and legs are broken to order. Read about it in the AMERICAN WEEKLY, the magazine distributed with NEXT SUNDAY'S LOS ANGELES EXAMINER.

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NATURALIST

(Continued From First Page)

I broke up and came right on through in the form of spray. How it did rain; and the hail drove along bullet-like until we had to wrap some of the canvas about our heads for protection. Two bolts of lightning hit quite close; but for these, the storm was interesting with the inconvenience of getting wet a minor event. However, I became careless at one time, allowing the canvas to fall below the brim of my hat and a shower of hail stones descended on the back of my neck, slid down under my arm and melted and the ice water trickled gently downward from one rib to another.

The storm finally stopped, the sun came out and that deep blue Sierran sky was visible again. We crawled forth from underneath the canvas and took account of the damage done which seemed to be all in the nature of a general soaking. Chase told of having camped near a large Jeffrey pine log and we found such a log in about the location he mentioned. Ordinarily it would have been a good place to camp but the storm had soaked everything until it just about floated, so we decided to look about, then move on.

The top of El Capitan is granite, rather badly weathered. From the top the rock slopes rather sharply down for about six hundred feet where one reaches the edge that may be seen from the Valley floor. It is a long way down. One would expect to find the top of El Capitan bare, but that is far from the case; there are a number of Jeffrey pines and a few small white pines. How they find enough nourishment to sustain life is a mystery. A splendid view of the Valley is to be had from El Capitan but not as good as that from Eagle Peak or from Taft Point.

From El Capitan we followed a trail, dim in places, to its junction with the Eagle Peak trail which is well defined all the way to its junction with the Yosemite Creek trail. We camped on Yosemite Creek, caught a few fish the following morning, then followed the Yosemite Falls trail to the Valley floor.

William C. Cross has opened a real estate office at Blue Jay, adjoining Lake Arrowhead. He is associated with Harold J. Hicks at Palm Springs and divides his time between the summer and winter resorts.

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